



Vermont Department of Public Safety  
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**Tuesday, January 10 at 9am**

Commissioner's Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Department of Public Safety Headquarters

**Attendees**

Commissioner Keith Flynn  
Ted Minall, Chief GHSP  
Thomas E. Fields, Law Enforcement Liaison  
Local law enforcement representative  
County sheriff representative  
Lt. John Flannigan, VSP representative, Traffic Safety Commander

**Talking Points**

- Fatality rate for 2011 was a 22% reduction from 2010 and the lowest fatality rate since 1944.
- However there was a 11% increase in impairment-related fatality, from 2010 to 2011. An impaired driver crash refers to any crash in which at least one of the drivers involved in the crash had a BAC of 0.08 or greater. An impairment-related fatality is one that results from an impairment-related crash.
- Nationally fatalities and injuries fell to their lowest rates ever – and to their lowest numbers since 1949.
- We cannot stress enough the collaborative work done by state, county, and local law enforcement; as well as the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the first responder community that contributed to the decrease.
- Through Governor's Highway Safety Program grant funds, agencies were able to
  - ✓ Coordinate media campaigns with strong messages about occupant protection and impaired driving
  - ✓ Incorporate Vermont's new "Texting" law in educational awareness events and distractive driving messaging
  - ✓ Offer a DRE training program, which brought the total number drug recognition experts to 28, covering every county in the state
  - ✓ Schedule targeted enforcement campaigns include extra patrols and VSP Operation C.A.R.E. programs
- Of course, our work is not done and there is always room for improvement. Any traffic fatality is one too many.
- And so far in 2012, two of the three fatal accidents included unbelted occupants. Therefore we cannot overemphasize the importance of buckling up.
- Vermont will continue to strive to reduce traffic fatalities and impaired driving incidents, increase seat belt usage and texting and driving awareness.
- Governor's Highway Safety looks forward to another productive year collaborating with our state, county, and local partners in improving Vermont motorist safety.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Traffic Deaths</b>	<b>Impairment- Related Fatality</b>
<b>1999</b>	90	33
<b>2000</b>	76	30
<b>2001</b>	92	32
<b>2002</b>	78	26
<b>2003</b>	69	27
<b>2004</b>	98	32
<b>2005</b>	69	27
<b>2006</b>	88	25
<b>2007</b>	66	20
<b>2008</b>	66	20
<b>2009</b>	73	23
<b>2010</b>	71	18
<b>*2011</b>	55	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>333</b>

\*2011 alcohol information is what I have through mid-November for the fatalities. If anyone was transported to NH, and had the autopsy performed there; the information has not been submitted but will be forthcoming.

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